

Message Text

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41

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 IO-13

ACDA-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03 SAM-01 SAB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 AID-05 ORM-02 OPR-02

A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05 /101 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:WNHOWELL:LLC

APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER

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O P 141751Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202816

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR SY LE

SUBJECT: REPORTED CLOSURE OF SYRIAN BORDER WITH LEBANON

1. WE HAVE SEEN SEVERAL REPORTS OF RECENT SARG MEASURES TO CONTROL TRAFFIC ACROSS SYRIAN BORDERS WITH LEBANON. ACCORDING TO SOME ACCOUNTS, MEASURES AMOUNT TO VIRTUAL CLOSURE OF BORDERS.
2. SUCH RESTRICITONS, PARTICULARLY IF PROLONGED, COULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT EFFECT NOT ONLY FOR LEBANESE WHO MIGHT BE SEEKING SAFEHAVEN IN OR THROUGH SYRIA BUT FOR OUR EFFORTS TO CHANNEL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE THROUGH DAMASCUS AND TO PROVIDE OTHER SUPPORT TO THE EMBASSY IN BEIRUT.
3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE, THEREFORE, ANY INFORMATION YOU ARE

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ABLE TO DEVELOP REGARDING NATURE AND PROBABLE DURATION OF

SUCH MEASURES AS WELL AS THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR DISPLACED
LEBANESE AND USG MAINTENANCE OF OVERLAND ROUTES INTO AND
OUT OF BEIRUT. IN PARTICULAR, WE NEED TO KNOW ON AN URGENT
BASIS WHETHER SUCH RESTRICTIONS WILL HAMPER MOVEMENT OF USG
PERSONNEL TO AND FROM BEIRUT AND, IN THE ULTIMATE CASE,
AFFECT OUR ABILITY TO EFFECT TOTAL EVACUATION OVERLAND OF
RESIDUAL STAFF OF EMBASSY BEIRUT. ROBINSON

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04 MAY 2006

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To: DAMASCUS
Type: TE
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